

Law Enforcement News

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Back to square one for Ohio info system

Planned upgrade is 3 years late after contractor goes belly up

Law enforcement agencies in Northwest Ohio are having to make due with a 25-year-old regional criminal justice information data base as they wait for the completion of a \$4.2-million upgrade that is already three years behind schedule.

Making matters worse, the project is in the hole for more than \$1 million to the original contractor, whose company failed to deliver the work and abruptly went out of business.

The upgrade of the Northeast Ohio Regional Information System (NORIS), which provides criminal history and related records to 44 law enforcement agencies in Northwest Ohio, was supposed to have been completed in July 1995.

But the project, which is in a race against time to avoid computer glitches expected to occur in the year 2000, had to be jump-started nearly from scratch after the original vendor hired by the local Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in 1994, which oversees NORIS, went bankrupt without completing the job.

The 13-member council, which provides criminal justice training for local law enforcement and mental health agencies in the Toledo area and

funnels state and Federal grants to localities, has sued Kat Lind, whose suburban-Chicago company, Solitaire Solutions, went belly up in June 1996.

The council claimed her firm, which once had 41 employees, completed only about one-fifth of the work that the council paid her \$1.2 million to do. Council officials now say it will cost about \$4.5 million to salvage the project, and in the mean time, it will spend nearly \$1 million to keep the aging NORIS running.

Under the settlement reached in October 1997 between the council and Solitaire Solutions, the company agreed to repay \$800,000 of the \$1.2 million, leaving the council liable for nearly \$500,000 of the \$1.6 million it originally borrowed to pay Solitaire. Prior to the settlement, the company had repaid the agency about \$200,000.

The Toledo Blade reported that at least \$250,000 of the \$800,000 is expected to come from Lind's bankruptcy proceedings. The rest of the money will be repaid in quarterly installments of \$7,500.

The newspaper reported that Lind had

misrepresented her academic background and professional credentials when she applied as the sole bidder on the project in 1994. She claimed to hold a doctorate, but was in fact a college dropout.

Armed with glowing references from such big-name clients as American Airlines and Chrysler Corp., she convinced council officials she was right for the job, demanding — and receiving — \$1.2 million in advance for the project.

After a series of delays and missed deadlines, officials began to question Solitaire's intentions. They said Lind, who demanded to sign off before design changes to the system were made and who rarely documented her work, often was unreachable for months.

After repeated attempts to contact Lind failed, she finally informed the council in January 1996 that she was pulling out of the job because the agency had failed to do its part in the project. "The cost of attempting to fill this breach has substantially damaged our company's financial stability and the health of the individual staff

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Stay or pay: Nebraska county gets tough with deputies who leave for other jobs

Sarpy County, Neb., officials are putting new sheriff's deputies on notice: Stay on the job for at least 30 months or reimburse the county for your training costs.

The County Attorney's Office has moved to recoup nearly \$9,000 in training and equipment costs from a former deputy who reneged on a provision of an employment contract that requires new hires to stay with the agency at least 30 months before taking a position with another agency.

The county wants Tari Asche, who served as a deputy from February 1997 to November 1997 to pay back \$8,600 the county spent to train, uniform and equip her. The cost of training at the

law enforcement training center in Grand Island can run from between \$4,000 and \$5,000 per deputy.

Deputy county attorney Tamra Walz said she was about a day away from filing a petition against Asche, who had not responded to repeated attempts to reach her on the matter, when she received a call from the former deputy's attorney indicating her client's willingness to work out a deal.

The county's action mirrors similar efforts by cash-strapped jurisdictions to recoup training costs from law enforcement officers who serve brief stints with agencies, then jump ship for better paying or less stressful jobs elsewhere.

"This has been a recurring prob-

lem," Walz told Law Enforcement News last month.

The Sarpy County Sheriff's Department has lost 23 deputies over in the past 36 months, some of whom left for other law enforcement jobs not long after joining the agency. The situation leaves the agency short-handed — at one point during that period the agency was down by 15 officers — drives up overtime costs and hurts morale, officials say.

"Fiscally, it impacts us to the tune of about \$35,000 — that's the cost from the time we hire them through the 22-week training program," said Lieut. Steve Grabowski, an 18-year veteran who serves as an area commander for

the 110-deputy agency.

In addition, new hires must also complete a 13 week course, Grabowski noted, adding to the length of time it takes to put a deputy on duty. "They don't go to work until they are completely certified," he told L.E.N. "We've got six months invested in these people, so if a deputy quits today, it's six months before I can get somebody out in the street to replace them."

To remedy the situation, Sheriff Pat Thomas instituted a clause in officers' contracts in February 1997 that requires them to serve at least 30 months with the agency or reimburse the county for training costs if they leave before that time. Asche was one of the first deputies hired under the new policy.

Sandra Dougherty, an Omaha attorney who is representing Asche, said her client left the agency not for a better paying law enforcement job, but for family reasons. Asche, who is expecting her first child, now works from her home for a photography company that had employed her before she became a deputy, Dougherty said.

"She left so she could have a non-law enforcement job where she could have more time with her child," the attorney told L.E.N. "Her husband is an emergency medical technician and firefighter. With their hours, they were going to have a major problem with child care if they were both working the kinds of shifts they would have to work."

Dougherty said she could not go into detail about her client's legal position in the matter, but said she felt optimistic that the situation would "be amicably resolved to the mutual satisfaction of both parties."

Chief appalled as SWAT team quits over appointment of "unqualified" female

The Dayton, Ohio, Police Department is trying to put together a new special weapons and tactics team following the recent resignation en masse of nearly every member of the unit to protest the appointment of a female officer they contend is unqualified for the job.

Dayton Police Chief Ronald Lowe Jr. said he was "appalled" by the July 14 resignations of 15 of the team's 20 members, including its commander Lieut. Robert Chabali. Lowe nonetheless accepted the resignations.

The appointment to the unit of a female officer, Monica Hunt, whom some SWAT members contended is unqualified to join the elite unit, reportedly sparked the mass resignation. The Day-

ton Daily News reported.

Sgt. Ellis L.R. Willis, one of those who submitted his resignation, said most SWAT officers believed Hunt, a nine-year Police Department veteran who has a mixed record of commendations and disciplinary actions, would have trouble handling the dangerous, high-stress situations the unit routinely faces.

"We look for a history of sound decision-making," Willis told The Daily News.

Hunt had applied for a spot on the team but was turned down several times, Willis asserted. She then filed a grievance, alleging that she was rejected because of her gender, which Willis denied played a role in the deci-

sion. After Hunt filed the grievance, Lieut. Col. John J. Compston, the agency's second-in-command, named her to the team.

Compston made the appointment because Hunt met all of the requirements to become a team member, said Det. Carol Johnson, a department spokeswoman.

Two other female officers have applied for the team since 1991, Willis noted, including one who failed the physical and another who was "placed high on the selection list and was in a position to make the team as openings developed," he said. The Daily News identified the latter female candidate as an officer who is currently pregnant.

Willis said the ability to make split-

second, life-and-death decisions is a must for SWAT team members, and Hunt's history of infractions of department rules made her a poor risk for SWAT. "We're talking our lives," he said.

According to the newspaper, Hunt was disciplined three times for sending messages unrelated to law enforcement over computers in police cruisers. She received a written reprimand the first time, and served one-day suspensions for the latter two offenses.

Hunt was suspended for three days after she was seen gambling in March 1993. The following year, Hunt got a one-day suspension for allowing a prisoner to escape. In November 1994, she

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Around the Nation

Northeast



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — The nation honored Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Oel. John Gibson of the U.S. Capitol Police, who were shot and killed in the line of duty July 24 during a gun battle with a mentally ill man who tried to blast his way into the Capitol. The memorial service was attended by President Clinton and more than 1,000 politicians, police and civilian mourners. The alleged gunman, 41-year-old Randy Weston, faces a possible death sentence if convicted on charges of killing Federal officers.

MARYLAND — New technology that matches fingerprints of suspects to prints left behind at crime scenes has connected 435 offenders to unsolved crimes. The Maryland Automated Fingerprint Identification System (MAFIS), which supports the Baltimore City Central Booking and Intake Center, has generated "hits" in cases that include four unsolved homicides, 65 rapes and 59 robberies.

MASSACHUSETTS — Wilmington Police Officer Harold Hubby, 38, was charged in July with five counts of accomplice to receiving stolen property in connection with the storage of stolen truck parts. Hubby and a friend, Kevin Brown, could face up to 75 years in prison. The indictments allege that Brown, a New Hampshire truck driver, stored five stolen tractor-trailer boxes

trailers on his property at the request of Hubby, who runs a trucking business on the side.

NEW JERSEY — After a 21-year battle to prove his innocence, James Landano was finally acquitted July 27 in the 1977 murder of Newark Police Officer John Snow during the robbery of a check-cashing store. Landano spent 12 years in prison before a Federal judge reversed the verdict, ruling that prosecutors had withheld exculpatory evidence. In 1996, Landano was reindicted by a grand jury. The trial jury in Jersey City took less than five hours to acquit him.

A new gun-swap program will begin in Morris County on Sept. 27 and run through October. Authorities will pay \$25 for rifles or shotguns, and \$50 for handguns. Assault weapons will bring \$100 to \$150. The program is a revival of a 1994 program that brought in 1,000 weapons. The only flaw then, say authorities, was that people turned in cheap, inoperable guns.

Police in Mount Laurel are seeking ways to reduce the number of phony 911 calls that have been running officers ragged. All emergency calls must be answered, even if they were the result of misdialing. A computer system that tracks the nature and origin of 911 calls found that of 11,300 calls phoned in to 911 between Jan. 1 and July 7 of this year, some 14 percent, or 782 calls, were hang-ups.

Jersey City Police Officer Daniel Talty, 48, a decorated 25-year veteran, and a friend were found shot to death in the officer's apartment July 9. A prime suspect in the killings, former Jersey City officer Mark Polidoro, was later found dead inside Talty's car in a field near Harrisburg, Pa. Police said he died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the mouth.

A 10-year-old Orange boy has been charged with sexually assaulting and murdering a 4-month-old left in his care. The boy, identified only as D.J., beat Aljaneer Caraway so badly that the infant's spleen and liver ruptured and his skull was fractured. Relatives of the accused boy claim police coerced a confession and that others may be responsible for the baby's death.

Lodi Police Officer Christopher Perrelli, 27, became the second officer to be arrested in an investigation of the department that began on July 16. Perrelli was charged with a single count of official misconduct for "using his position as a police officer to obtain a benefit for another."

Lumberton Police Officer Richard Rufo, 36, has sued the city's police de-

partment to regain his job after claiming he was forced to resign. The eight-year veteran was given the option of resigning because the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office was ready to charge him with criminal misconduct and filing a false report. Rufo's suit claims that the actions that led to his resignation occurred in November when he informed the department's internal affairs unit that the ex-girlfriend of another officer was seeking his help in getting a restraining order. The other officer, the woman said, had been abusive. An investigation turned up no evidence of this, but did reveal Rufo's alleged misconduct.

Former Newark police officer Samuel Cerasiello was charged July 15 with stealing \$600 from a suspected drug dealer in January, and Federal officials said that as many as seven other officers may have been involved in similar shakedowns. According to the FBI, Cerasiello, 37, seized \$1,850 in cash from the suspect, but underreported the amount and kept the difference. Cerasiello admitted the theft two days later, and was fired in March after being found guilty of administrative charges.

New Jersey law enforcement officials contend that their crime-fighting efforts will be hindered by a recent state Supreme Court ruling that requires tips by informants to be backed up by other evidence before a warrantless search can be conducted. The ruling came a day after another ruling allowing jury trials, if requested, to determine if police were justified in seizing property in drug cases.

NEW YORK — The New York City Police Department's Midtown South Precinct has become embroiled in a scandal that alleges officers routinely engaged in sex with prostitutes while on duty, a practice that went on for as long as a decade and a half, according to Police Commissioner Howard Safir. While there is no evidence to suggest that supervisors knew what was happening, if an internal inquiry shows otherwise, the department could find itself having to interview a roster of former ranking officers that includes Police Commissioner John Timoney of Philadelphia and acting State Supreme Court Justice John P. Walsh. Citing a failure to supervise, Safir has already transferred three precinct supervisors. Investigators are also exploring possible criminal charges against officers who may have received sex in exchange for protecting the brothel on West 39th street. So far, at least 27 officers have become entangled in the scandal.

Former New York City Police Officer Sharon Holder was sentenced on July 13 to up to seven years in jail for

shooting a fellow officer with whom she was having an affair. Holder lured her married lover, Officer Jose Ramos, to a Washington Heights garage. Declaring, "I can't take it anymore. I'm going to kill you and kill myself," she shot Ramos three times with her 9mm. service revolver, then shot herself in the stomach.

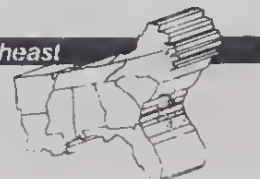
Funeral services were held Aug. 3 for New York City Police Officer Gerard Carter, 28, the third NYPO officer to be killed in the line of duty this year. While patrolling the West Brighton Houses on Staten Island on July 26, Carter and his partner approached Shatiek Johnson, 17, who they believed was wanted for murder. Authorities say Johnson drew a gun and shot Carter through the windshield of his patrol van. The officer died four days later. Johnson, who was on parole after serving two years for manslaughter for beating a homeless man to death when he was 15, also faces murder charges in the July 16 shooting of a Staten Island man.

Lou Matarazzo, president of the New York City Patrolman's Benevolent Association, announced in July that he will not seek another term, a decision that came as no surprise since Matarazzo has been widely criticized by rank-and-file members over failed contract negotiations with the city. Union vice president Ronald DeVito insisted the decision was based on the fact that Matarazzo would reach the NYPO's mandatory retirement age of 63 before he could complete a second, four-year term.

PENNSYLVANIA — Riverside Police Officer Scott Wenner has reportedly reached a settlement with the Texas State Lottery Commission for a one-time payment of \$3.25 million, ending his four-year battle with Lone Star State officials to collect a \$10-million jackpot he had won. Texas officials claim that the ticket was purchased illegally from a now-defunct multistate ticket agency, but a Federal appeals court ruled that Pic-A-State, in Croyden, Pa., had been operating legally at that time. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the decision.

Philadelphia Police Officer Fred Gaethers, 30, has been charged with kidnapping, raping and assaulting a prostitute at gunpoint while off-duty last year. Accusations against the four-year veteran come from a 21-year-old woman who claims Gaethers offered her \$50 for sex on the night of Sept. 10, 1997. When she got into his vehicle, she said, he pulled out a gun, drove her to a parking lot, and forced her to perform sexual acts in the car. Immediately after escaping from the officer's car, the victim flagged a police cruiser and identified Gaethers as her attacker.

Southeast



ALABAMA — A verdict was returned July 7 in a Federal case involving two female Birmingham police officers who claimed former Chief Arthur Oetusch and Capt. Julius Walker punished them for blowing the whistle on alleged corruption. Oetusch was ordered to pay

\$36,379 to Sgt. Valinda Oladeinde, and Walker was ordered to pay her \$150,000 and an additional \$125,000 to retired officer Patricia Fields.

ARKANSAS — North Little Rock police have delayed implementing a program to notify residents when sex offenders move into their neighborhood to allow time for a public meeting. The action was taken after residents in other states responded with threats and vandalism when they received similar notifications.

FLORIDA — Two black men who spent nine years on death row for a double murder they did not commit were awarded \$500,000 each in July, nearly 25 years after their sentences were vacated. Freddie Pitts, 54, and Wilbert Lee, 62, were convicted twice for the 1963 murders of two white gas station attendants in Port St. Joe. They were pardoned in 1975 by Gov. Reuben Askew.

GEORGIA — A slowdown by disgruntled OeKalb County police cost the county some \$200,000 in lost revenue during the month of June. Angry that a divided County Commission awarded them a \$260 bonus instead of a raise and did not back unionization efforts, officers drastically reduced the number of tickets issued. OeKalb Chief Executive Officer Liane Levitan wants to raise police salaries over the next 18 months until they are the highest of any metro department.

LOUISIANA — The shooting death of Cedric Harris, a black paraplegic, has prompted calls by the NAACP for Federal and local officials to investigate the incident. Police say Harris was pointing his gun at an officer on July 29 when another officer shot him in the back. Witnesses have maintained that Harris's hands were cuffed behind him.

NORTH CAROLINA — A Federal complaint has been brought against a former deputy police chief in Kinston by a female officer who claims she was raped and sexually harassed by him from 1992 until 1997. In a complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the woman says former Deputy Chief W.L. "Speedy" Ingram appeared drunk and raped her at a police conference. Ingram retired in February when the results of a month-long administrative probe into his conduct were released to the City Council. The results have not been made public. Ingram is a finalist for the police chief's job in Atlantic Beach.

The annual Uniform Crime Report for North Carolina, a statewide survey released by the Attorney General's Office, found that violent crime rose sharply in some small towns, particularly Carboro (25 percent), Wendell (35 percent), Clayton (46 percent), and Knightdale (65 percent). Property crimes, mostly burglary and theft, drove up figures in a number of small towns surrounding the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area known as the Triangle. Durham, which has consistently had one of the state's highest crime rates, had a 1-percent overall increase, with a 16-percent jump in violent crimes, and a 54-percent rise in robberies last year.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Florence police officers formed the department's first union in July, the Florence Police

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What's up, doc?

A rookie cop in Lafayette, Ala., made the largest cocaine bust in state history July 5 when he stopped a truck hauling a load of Mexican carrots — and \$13 million in coke.

The officer, who joined the force just last September, stopped the truck for a traffic violation on Interstate 85. After questioning the driver, identified as Carlos Espinoza, 34, of Mercedes, Texas, and obtaining per-

mission to search the vehicle, the officer discovered approximately 150 kilos of cocaine hidden among 840 50-pound bags of carrots. Espinoza, who said he was delivering the load to New Jersey, was arrested on Federal drug charges.

Police Chief Bruce Wright asked Law Enforcement News not to reveal the identity of the officer out of concerns for his safety.

Around the Nation

Officers Association. The union, which is affiliated as Local 47 of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, expects to reach a full strength of 40 members.

Greenville Sgt. Paul Guy, a 19-year veteran of the city's police force, wants a Federal investigation into what he says is the protection of white drug dealers. Guy is presently under investigation himself for allegedly accepting payoffs from drug dealers. He claims a "good old boy" network exists among the city police, county sheriff's office, state and Federal prosecutors and the FBI, with participants taking payoffs to dismiss charges and warn dealers. Guy says he was transferred out of narcotics for arresting affluent, white people on drug charges.

VIRGINIA — Three Stafford County deputies have been officially cleared in the fatal shooting of a robbery suspect that was captured on videotape. The tape shows the suspect, George M. Jackson, pulling into a driveway and leaving his car with a pistol aimed at police before he was shot and fell to the ground. Jackson, 41, was carrying a loaded, .380-caliber semiautomatic pistol.



ILLINOIS — Chicago's black community is said to fear that the case against three white men accused of beating a black 13-year-old who mistakenly ventured into a white neighborhood might fall apart if a key witness cannot be located soon. Lenard Clark was beaten on March 21, 1997, allegedly by Frank Caruso, 19; Michael Kwidzinski, 21; and Victor Jasas, 18. Under the state's speedy-trial law, prosecutors will have to dismiss the case if they cannot find witness Richard DeSantis, who has moved to Arizona along with his family. DeSantis has been missing for months, forcing two delays. Another witness, Michael Cutler, has been killed in what is believed to be an unrelated gang shooting. Both DeSantis' father and the father of Caruso, one of the defendants, are believed to have ties to organized crime.

A staggering minimum sentence of 126 years was imposed May 22 on Edward Lee "Pacman" Jackson Jr., a Chicago police officer identified by prosecutors as the ranking member of the Conservative Vice Lords street gang. Three other West Side officers were convicted as well in the "Austin 7" corruption scandal. According to prosecutors, the officers brazenly stole cash and narcotics from drug dealers, traveling outside their district when an opportunity to make money turned up. Two other officers, M.L. Moore and Alex Ramos, were given unusually stiff sentences, with Moore getting 106 years and Ramos a minimum of 53 years in prison. The fourth officer, James P. Young, was convicted on two counts and acquitted on six others. Key to the state's case was the testimony of Sgt. Eugene Shepard, a 27-year veteran who played the undercover role of "Silky," a drug dealer.

INDIANA — A Tippecanoe County deputy sheriff found the stolen tomb-

stone of actor James Dean in July by running over it in the middle of a central Indiana highway. The tombstone, stolen a week earlier, loomed just in front of Deputy Aaron Gilman as he drove home in his cruiser with his wife and brother in the car as passengers. Unable to swerve out of the way due to an oncoming car, Gilman ran over the tombstone, damaging the car's transmission, but without injury to himself or his passengers.

A report by The Indianapolis Star on June 24 asserted that the Brady Law's success in keeping handguns out of the wrong hands in Indiana was overstated. Instead of the 1,085 handgun sales the Justice Department claimed were blocked by the law in 1997, the newspaper reported that the actual figure was just 82. The difference between Federal and state figures, said The Star, occurred because the Justice Department reported the number of times permits to carry a gun were turned down, rather than the applications to buy a gun. A permit isn't needed to buy a gun in the state. Getting a gun permit also does not mean a person is going to buy a gun.

A stolen pickup truck carrying a homemade bomb crashed through the doors of the Tippecanoe County courthouse Aug. 3, causing a fire that heavily damaged the building, but causing no injuries. The bomb did not explode. Authorities are calling the incident an act of terrorism, but have not, as yet, found a motive for the crime.

KENTUCKY — A new state law will permit ministers and church officials with concealed-weapons permits to bring guns into houses of worship. Civil-rights activist Louis Coleman, however, is circulating a petition in Louisville to overturn the law. A 1996 law prohibited guns in churches, but it was amended this year.

OHIO — Crime statistics released in July show that Cincinnati is facing a wave of thefts from cars, especially cell phones and laptop computers. More than 7,500 thefts were reported in the mid-year count, a 6-percent increase.

WEST VIRGINIA — The refinancing of \$117 million in jail construction bonds will pay for the last 10 regional jails proposed for the state, officials said in July.

WISCONSIN — The number of girls accused of violent crimes such as sexual assault, attempted murder and robbery has increased sharply in the last 10 years, officials said in July.



IOWA — Some 111 methamphetamine labs have been disoriented in the state so far this year, authorities say. Sixty-three were found during all of 1997.

KANSAS — Crime is reportedly increasing sharply in Brown and Jackson counties in northeast Kansas, where casinos are located.

MISSOURI — At the request of St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon, the

state will audit a multimillion-dollar Police Department fund known as the Secretary's Account, which Harmon said could be used as a "slush fund." For more than a decade, the department has kept the money, roughly \$7.5 million, in the same bank, never giving other banks a chance to bid on the account. Bids would ensure that the department gets the lowest service charges and the highest possible return on the invested money.

Police departments in Pine Lawn, Bel Ridge, Northwoods, Jennings and Pagedale are working together to stop an increased flow of counterfeit money into the area being created with inexpensive computer equipment. A 16-year-old Normandy boy and a 24-year-old Wellston man were arrested in July after trying to buy \$470 in money orders from a Pine Lawn convenience store. By pretending to have a problem with the money-order printer, the store's clerk was able to stall until police could arrive.

Two defendants in the rape and decapitation of 13-year-old Tiffany Sabourin pointed fingers at each other in their confessions to police. Billy Joe Logsdon, 16, is being charged as an adult with first-degree murder, forcible rape, forcible sodomy and other crimes. Jason Shipman, 21, faces the same charges. Authorities arrested the pair 10 days after the girl's body was found near the Lindenwood University campus. Her head was put in a portable toilet. Logsdon told police that it was Shipman who pulled off Sabourin's clothes and raped her.

MONTANA — Kalispell Police Chief Ad Clark and Assistant Chief Don Hossack resigned May 27, one day after City Manager Clarence Krepps was fired by the City Council in a vote of 6-3. Clark declined to say whether his and Hossack's resignations were connected to the ouster of Krepps. Clark, 54, a member of the Kalispell force for more than 23 years, said simply that the job had become "more stressful and difficult" over the past five months.

NORTH DAKOTA — Adults on the Three Affiliated Tribes reservation who are stopped for other traffic infractions can be fined for not buckling up. The ordinance is being enacted by the tribes themselves.

WYOMING — A new zero-tolerance law that allows a judge to strip the license of a minor caught driving with a blood-alcohol level of .02 is being enforced by state law enforcement officers.



COLORADO — Law enforcement officers in Montezuma County have staged a big "thank you" for all those who pitched in after three officers were shot there on May 29, one of them fatally. The county Sheriff's Department, the Cortez Police Department and the Colorado National Guard sent more than 3,000 invitations to everyone from the FBI who investigated the crime to community children who collected

money for the family of slain officer Dale Claxton. Cortez was inundated with help from more than 120 law enforcement agencies after suspected gunmen Jason McVean, Robert Matthew Mason and Alan "Monty" Pilon shot Claxton and then injured two other officers in a gun battle and chase.

COLORADO SPRINGS Police Officer Patrick Mahoney, 41, was sentenced to probation and 100 hours of community service for striking a man over the head with the butt of his gun. The incident began on June 22 with a report of a man breaking into a car. When Mahoney arrived, the suspect, Frank Johnson, 38, was sitting in a car that did not belong to him. While Mahoney tried to pull Johnson from the car, Johnson's foot got caught. Mahoney then hit him on the head, according to a police report.

NEW MEXICO — A juvenile crime program that has helped to significantly lower Boston's overall murder rate by 60 percent during its first six years of operation will be tried in Albuquerque. The pilot program, "SAFE 2000 — A Safer Albuquerque for Everyone," will be funded by a \$59,000 grant from the U.S. Justice Department. During the first half of this year, 10 juveniles have been shot and killed in Albuquerque, compared to 11 in all of 1997.

The state has issued an apology after groups named in a law enforcement report on the "extremist right" complained they were being unfairly labeled as terrorists. The state said it had mistakenly linked law-abiding groups with violence.

OKLAHOMA — Former Collinsville Police Chief Don Abel was given a two-year deferred sentence July 17 for distributing a controlled drug, ephedrine, to a former police dispatcher. Abel, 58, was arrested in 1996 at a Tulsa motel, in full uniform, where he had gone for a rendezvous with the dispatcher, Cherry Fifer. She testified that on several occasions, Abel mentioned the idea of exchanging sex for drugs. Abel's attorney, however, claimed that the defendant went to the motel strictly for law enforcement purposes.

TEXAS — Three members of the Republic of Texas, an extremist group that held police at bay for a week outside their West Texas compound last year, have been arrested on charges of concocting a plot to kill President Clinton and FBI Director Louis Freeh with a cactus thorn dipped in anthrax bacteria, the HIV virus and rabies. The men, Johnnie Wise, 62, Jack Grebe, 43 and Oliver Emugh, 73, were arrested after allegedly sending E-mail threats to Federal officials.

The Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund collected \$61.5 million from counties last year, but paid out only \$28.3 million, according to the state attorney general's office. The fund's cash balance at the end of the year was \$140.8 million.

Butyric acid, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs, was deliberately spilled at four Houston abortion clinics in July. It was the same chemical used in attacks on clinics in New Orleans and central Florida. Three of the clinics were evacuated, and 10 people were treated at the scene for breathing problems.



CALIFORNIA — The Oakland City Council approved a policy in July that will allow medical marijuana users to stock up to 1½ pounds of pot. The ordinance is in defiance of a state law that sets a one-ounce limit.

Officials in Santa Cruz County have established a program, due to enroll its first 40 participants this fall, that would allow nonviolent drug offenders to undergo treatment rather than be sentenced to prison.

A bill approved June 30 by the State Senate Public Safety Committee would require the Department of Justice to issue annual reports for the next three years that include traffic-stop information, such as the race or ethnicity, age and gender of the driver; whether a search was conducted and the methods used; what was discovered, and whether any property was seized. The bill was introduced by Assemblyman Kevin Murray of Culver City, who was stopped by a Beverly Hills officer following his victory in a state Senate primary. The officer claims he pulled Murray over because he was missing a front license plate. Murray, who is black, says the officer never mentioned the plate, and was "very defensive."

SAN DIEGO Police Officer Mark Trisolini pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor hookmaking charge on July 20 and was placed on five years' probation and ordered to perform 100 hours of volunteer work. Trisolini, who will not lose his job, was also fined \$450. Prosecutors said that while on duty, Trisolini was taking small bets on the side from other officers and civilians.

HAWAII — Honolulu has certified some 25 police officers as drug recognition experts. They have been trained to use instruments to determine what type drugs a driver has been using.

IDAHO — Maxwell Hoffman, 41, sentenced to death in the revenge killing of a drug informant in 1987, got his appeals back on track in Federal court in July, three months after he won the right to cease court proceedings and move ahead with his execution.

NEVADA — Crimes in Clark County schools rose by 24 percent during the school year over 1996-1997, while enrollment grew by only 7 percent.

OREGON — Since the May shooting spree in Springfield by 15-year-old Kip Kinkel, authorities have noted a 30-percent increase in requests by parents for mental health services for their children. Kinkel allegedly killed his parents and two classmates and injured 22 others.

State Police Supt. LeRon Howland is asking Gov. John Kitzhaber for \$42.4 million over the next two years to create 258 new patrol positions, increasing the agency's sworn strength by 77 percent. A shortage of patrol officers in Clatsop County has led to troopers being able to respond to only 40 percent of traffic crashes on the Federal and state highways there.

Buffalo shuffle

Buffalo, N.Y., Police Commissioner **Gil Kerlikowske** didn't waste any time reporting to his new post as deputy director of the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Kerlikowske, 48, who has led two other police agencies to national acclaim, left the Buffalo Police Department on July 17, and started his new job three days later.

As a deputy director of the COPS Office, Kerlikowske will be oversee the Monitoring Division, the Program, Policy, Support and Evaluation Division, and the Justice Department's Justice Response Center.

"I am extremely pleased that Gil Kerlikowske has decided to accept this position with the COPS office," said director **Joseph E. Brann**. "His community policing background and law enforcement experience will be a great value in our grant monitoring activities and in our program and policy support functions."

Kerlikowske, who took over as Buffalo's police commissioner in January 1994 after successful stints as chief of the Fort Pierce, Fla., and Port St. Lucie, Fla., police departments, gave a simple reason for his career move.

"It was time for a change," he told Law Enforcement News. "We had accomplished a lot in Buffalo, and I thought that working with the COPS Office to expand community policing nationally was a great opportunity."

By most accounts, Kerlikowske's tenure at the Buffalo Police Department was responsible for sweeping changes that brought the moribund, tradition-bound department in line with 1990s law enforcement. "We had carbon paper [for making copies of reports] when I got there in 1994," he recalled, "but by the time I left we had computers in the cars, live-scan fingerprinting, and digital-imaging mug shots."

He also successfully lobbied city officials to fund the construction of two brand-new district stations, with plans for two more on the drawing board.

Kerlikowske not only brought improvements to the department's infrastructure, but also sought to raise police productivity through the institution of "a whole series of training initiatives that had never existed before." He put civilians in a number of positions formerly held by sworn employees, freeing 50 officers for patrol duties.

The changes paid off in a double-digit drop in crime, and also served to expand community policing in Buffalo, he said.

"I feel my accomplishment was pushing community policing forward in the city. At the same time, we had significant reductions in crime in the past four years, including a 38-percent decrease in violent crime and a 22-percent decrease in Part I crimes. Our arrests went from about 12,000 in 1994 to 16,000 in 1997, and the productivity of the officers was very active in reducing crime."

To illustrate the turnaround in the Buffalo Police Department, Kerlikowske noted that in 1991, the International Association of Chiefs of Police released a report that called the department "dysfunctional." A subsequent review by IACP that was completed in

1997 said the department had progressed by "light years" in the interim.

Not content to rest on his laurels, Kerlikowske admitted "there's a lot still to do" in Buffalo, but said he felt he had a capable successor in **Rocco Diina**, the first deputy commissioner chosen by Mayor **Anthony Masiello** to head the 950-officer department. Diina joined the BPD as an 18-year-old cadet, and was walking the beat as a rookie two years later. "I'm sure the department will do well with him," Kerlikowske said.

In tandem with his departure from Buffalo, Kerlikowske also resigned as president of the Police Executive Research Forum, a post he had held for two years, noting that his new job precluded him from remaining an active member of the police chiefs' group.

Anti-crime overtures

Music, it is said, has charms to soothe the savage breast. But what about rowdy crowds that congregate in a city's downtown area after the nightclubs have closed?

The Minneapolis Police Department may soon find out, as part of its continuing quest to clear Saturday night revelers from city streets. The weapon of choice? Opera.

Insp. **Sharon Lubinski**, who oversees the department's Downtown Command, said she is seriously considering pounding the crowds with the vocalizing of opera greats, in hopes that the largely rap and hip-hop crowd will find the musical selections distasteful and disperse.

Lubinski, who also oversees the city's successful homicide-reduction effort that was modeled on the Boston Gun Project, said the musical approach is just one of several tactics being considered to bring unruly crowds to order. Clubgoers clog downtown soon after clubs close their doors at 1 A.M., bringing noise, fights and the occasional shooting to the area. In August, a woman was injured when she was hit by a stray bullet fired by someone in the crowd.

"We've tried throwing cops at it, clearing the sidewalks with mounted patrol," Lubinski, a 12-year veteran of the department and one of its highest-ranking females, told Law Enforcement News. "But it becomes very confrontational when we have uniformed officers trying to clear the streets. So one of the tactics is to pump opera music into the crowd to move them out of the streets."

Lubinski said her choice of opera as a crowd-control tactic isn't a knock on the musical genre itself. "I actually love opera," she said, adding that she believed the music would seem "discordant" enough to youths gathered downtown that they would go home to avoid listening to it.

"I've actually had people suggesting using had opera singers," Lubinski added. "A bad parody of opera could be pretty hard to listen to after you've had a few drinks."

Lubinski said intense media interest has prompted her to put the idea on the back burner temporarily. "I have never had such a response for any crime-fighting project," she said. "We might still do it, but I'm waiting for the attention to die down."

No longer to be forgotten

75 years later, LAPD hails black cop killed in line of duty

The man who may have been the first black Los Angeles police officer to be killed in the line of duty no longer lies forgotten in an unmarked grave, thanks to the efforts of a black police sergeant who stumbled upon his story while researching the history of African-Americans in the Los Angeles Police Department.

More than 200 people, including about 100 Los Angeles police officers led by Police Chief **Bernard Parks**, gathered on July 29 at Evergreen Cemetery to remember the fallen officer, **Charles P. Williams**, who was shot and killed in 1923 at the age of 36. A headstone paid for by the Police Memorial Foundation was unveiled during the ceremony.

Williams was working undercover as a vice officer when he was shot and killed Jan. 13, 1923, after confronting a man who was brandishing a gun and threatening passers-by. The suspect, **John Pryor**, was hit in the leg by a shot fired by Williams as he fell. Pryor, who had waged a one-man campaign to clean up prostitution in the neighborhood, claimed he shot Williams in self-defense, apparently mistaking Williams for another black man he had tussled with earlier that evening.

Williams, who was appointed to the LAPD in August 1920, left behind a wife and a 4-year-old son.

Previously, it was believed that **Oscar Joel Bryant**, who was shot to death in 1968, was the first black Los Angeles police officer killed in the line of duty. His name is revered among the department's black officers, many of whom are members of the association that bears his name.

But while Williams's death was recorded in department records, a mix-up of photographs in the department's archives stored at the Los Angeles Police Historical Society depicted the officer as white. It was only through research conducted by Sgt. **John Thomas**, a 14-year LAPD veteran, that the



Los Angeles Police Chief **Bernard Parks** addresses those gathered to honor **Charles P. Williams** (below right), now believed to be the first black LAPD officer to be killed in the line of duty.

truth emerged.

"I was researching a story about a baseball game between a group of black officers and black doctors in the 1920s. I was going through some microfilm of old periodicals and I saw the headline 'City Pays Great Tribute to Slain Officer,' and below it had a picture of [Williams]," Thomas told Law Enforcement News.

When Thomas contacted the Historical Society about his discovery, he was told Officer Williams had been white. "But once I was able to pull this package together and cross-reference it with The Los Angeles Times and other vital information, it all added up that indeed there was a black officer killed in 1923," he said.

Thomas said his discovery shocked and surprised many in the department, most of whom, like himself, "had no reason to believe that Oscar Joel Bryant wasn't the first [black officers killed]."

"There were some questions about how [the mix-up] happened, but my theory is that it was just the result of sloppy record-keeping," he added.

When Thomas visited the cemetery to pay his respects, he found that Williams's grave was unmarked — "the last thing I expected to see," he said. "When I told people about this, the foundation said without hesitation it would buy him a marker. The reaction on the



part of the department was universal — everybody felt that this officer deserved more than that."

As Thomas continues his research project, which has been ongoing for more than a year as the basis for a possible book, he fully expects to discover that another black officer may have preceded Williams in a line-of-duty death because blacks have served as officers in the LAPD since 1886.

"I strongly believe he wasn't the first, when you look at it from that standpoint. And looking through the periodicals I've read, especially the black periodicals, nowhere was it mentioned that he was the first, so I'm pretty confident there were others," he said.

Stop or I'll...

Chuck Lewis, the Police Chief and sole officer in Coggon, Iowa, says he feels a little "uncomfortable" carrying out his duties without a firearm, but adds he has no choice but to patrol unarmed because of the county sheriff's decision to deny him a firearms permit. "As of right now I don't have one, but I'm getting the job done," Lewis told Law Enforcement News. "But it would be a little more comfortable to have it."

Linn County Sheriff **Don Zeller** refused to grant Lewis permits to purchase and carry firearms because of the Chief's 1995 assault conviction for fighting with another man. Under state

law, a county sheriff has the authority to make decisions about a person's eligibility for firearms permits, and Zeller said he has to deny them to those with past felony convictions — no exceptions.

The Sheriff said that in his personal opinion, it would be next to impossible for an unarmed lawman to conduct his duties. "If a person is ineligible to carry a firearm off duty, the same standards should apply to them — that they couldn't carry it on duty either," said Zeller, who said he reviews about 1,000 applications for firearms permits each year.

Officials of Coggon, which is lo-

cated about 15 miles north of Cedar Rapids, didn't seem to mind Lewis's failure to secure a firearms permit. Zeller said, since they rehired him for the job he had previously held from 1988 to 1994. "I told them it's up to them whether they want that liability," the Sheriff said.

While Lewis maintained that he is handling the situation well, he added that he relies on Zeller's deputies for backup if needed. "For the most part, we have a quiet community and it's not all that bad," he said. "You get nervous occasionally — and traffic stops at night are out of the question for me unless I have a deputy close by."

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Talk isn't cheap — or easy

Problems with KC police/fire radios spark suits

Some police and firefighters in Kansas City, Mo., are claiming that the failure of city's trouble-plagued radio system almost cost them their lives because it suddenly stops working, and to make their point they have sued the city and the system's manufacturer.

The lawsuits bring to a head years of complaints about problems with the communications system made by Ericsson Inc., one of the nation's leading producers of public-safety communication systems. The city recently determined that the radio system will require at least \$8 million in improvements.

Public safety workers say the radios sometimes go dead without warning, preventing them from summoning backup in critical incidents, or simply fail to work at all. Because of the glitches, some firefighters reportedly don't even bother carrying the radios. The Kansas City Star reported, much to the chagrin of their supervisors.

In June, the city announced plans to buy up to 700 new portable radio units to replace those said to be faulty, and distributed sample radios for trial use by public-safety workers, who will be asked for their impressions and suggestions before a final purchasing decision is made.

That wasn't done when the current system was purchased several years ago, said City Councilman Kevin Simmons, who chairs the council committee overseeing the upgrade effort. "I don't think we can make that mistake again," he told The Kansas City Star in late June. "You don't buy a new car without at least driving it and testing it."

The newspaper also reported that the city is putting together a list of suggestions for new portable radios that Ericsson is developing for fire departments. The suggestions include oversized knobs and buttons that can be easily operated with gloved hands, and a bright orange case to make the radio

easy to see if it is dropped at a fire scene.

At least two Kansas City police officers and a firefighter are suing Ericsson, claiming that the radios used failed to operate during crucial incidents in which they suffered grievous injuries. At least one of the lawsuits, which also names as a defendant SFA Inc., a Maryland electronics communication design consultant, are expected to go to trial in August 1999.

Two police officers, Derek L. McCollum and his partner, Robert D. Blehm, claim in separate suits that on Sept. 18, 1996, they were shot by a suspect, David Humphrey, who was able to overcome them when their radios failed to work, preventing them from summoning back-up help.

Blehm was chasing Humphrey on foot, the lawsuit alleges, when he "depressed his radio button in an attempt to call for assistance and backup."

"The radio crackled and hummed, letting both the plaintiff as well as the suspect know that the radio was out of order and not working," the lawsuit states. "In a second attempt to push the red button which would lock out all other radio communication notifying all other police personnel that there was a police officer in distress, that radio button also failed."

The suspect was able to wrest control of the Blehm's revolver, and shot him "numerous times," resulting in "sustained serious, permanent injuries which required ongoing medical care and treatment."

Blehm claims Ericsson and SFA "demonstrated a conscious disregard for human safety...when defendants had actual knowledge of the dangerous propensity of this system causing repeated dangerous situations and injuries to police officers."

Blehm's lawsuit claims the radio system is dangerous for a number of reasons, including "beeps indicating no radio communications available, alerting suspects to this condition; dispatch-

ers are barely audible over police car radios; lapel microphones on shoulder radios that will dislodge, hang or bounce during chases, or get torn off leaving officers with no radio communications; the emergency button on the lapel microphone failed to clear all radio traffic and give the officer a direct line to get help, which it was designed to do; insignificant signal strength; and placement of number of signal towers was miscalculated, resulting in a failure of the system."

McCollum, Blehm's partner, was also shot by the suspect after the radio failed to work, preventing him from summoning help, his lawsuit claims.

Firefighter Floyd Peoples claims in his lawsuit that he was badly burned while fighting a blaze after his calls for help over his handie-talkie weren't heard by fellow firefighters who were in the structure only yards away.

The lawsuit claims the radios used by firefighters fail without warning "while being used inside structures"; "will change channels on its own without warning or notice to the user"; system efficiency "is affected by weather and precipitation conditions which greatly affects its efficiency for firefighters"; and the emergency button on the hand-held unit is "inaccessible to firefighters the conditions they work and the gear they are required to wear."

Neither attorneys for the plaintiffs nor city officials returned calls from Law Enforcement News for comment. Robert Speidel, a spokesman for Ericsson, said he could not comment on specific claims in the lawsuits, but added the company "will be fighting [them] vigorously, and we certainly hope to come out on top."

Speidel said that city officials recently have acknowledged that problems with the radios may have occurred because it didn't provide correct specifications to the company that adequately addressed the city's needs.

You get what you pay for? Not!

Are recruits getting credit where none is due?

Taxpayers in Orange County, N.Y., have paid more than \$140,000 for trainees at the county Police Academy to attend college in western New York. The trouble is that none of the students ever set foot on the campus, much less made it to a class or took a test.

While those who were enrolled received college credits without attending the institution, county taxpayers were forced to shell out a total of \$142,000 in 1996-97 as if the students had actually attended the two-year college. The Middletown Times Herald-Record reported July 10.

Now the arrangement has drawn the ire of local legislators, who are angry that taxpayers got stuck with the bill for no-show students. "I really question the ethics of this," said Representative George Green, a Republican. "I don't like it. Without expenditure one, without professor one, without lighting a light bulb, they're getting us to pay."

County officials told the newspaper that the situation arose because Corning Community College, which has a criminal justice program, honors Orange County Police Academy classes, and gives college credit for them. Corning certifies the academy's instructors and curriculum, which allows students who fill out the paperwork to enroll in Corning without attending, but still get the credits, according to Representative Michael W. Farrell Sr.

But while the students get off scot-free, Orange County taxpayers get stuck with "charge-backs"—fees charged when students from one county enroll in a community college in another county.

The president of Corning,

Eduardo J. Marti, said the arrangement was "legitimate. It is not a scam. It's not something being done in any inappropriate way."

Joel Kleinman, the Orange County Finance Commissioner, told the newspaper that the State University of New York, which oversees community colleges but has declined to get involved in the

A New York county's police academy trainees are getting college credit without setting foot on campus, while taxpayers foot the bill.

controversy, has recommended against making further payments.

Police academy officials point to the refusal by Orange County Community College to accept police academy courses for credit as one factor for why the situation has arisen. That forced the academy to enter into a relationship with an institution that would do so, they said.

Anthony Muratore, the chairman of OCC's criminal justice department, said the Police Academy's curriculum is good but not comparable to college-level courses because most of the work focuses on technical and vocational areas of law enforcement.

"Coming does not test them. Coming does nothing. Corning gives it to them on a silver platter," Muratore told the newspaper. "I question whether this is educationally sound. Are we giving a grade away?"

Troopers hold their ground:

PD rebuilds, while waiting for other shoe to drop

A contingent of Illinois state troopers will likely remain assigned to the Cicero, Ill., Police Department until at least Dec. 1, as the local department continues to rebuild ranks that were decimated in the fallout of a municipal corruption probe.

Despite the internal turmoil wrought by allegations of corruption—including the resignation of its muck-racking superintendent who had vowed to ferret out misconduct and the dismissals or suspensions of nearly one-third of its 140-officer force—the agency is performing well, said Lieut. Col. Robert Johnson, a 26-year State Police veteran who has been leading the department as its de facto superintendent since May 6.

Twenty-five troopers are working alongside Cicero police officers, who are also being aided by a small group of Cook County sheriff's deputies. Morale continues to improve as the agency attempts to refocus itself on providing service to residents, Johnson said.

"Things are going well. Calls are getting answered in a timely fashion, citizens are getting service, crimes are

being successfully investigated," Johnson told Law Enforcement News last month.

In the past few months, police have solved three of four homicides, as well as three "cold" murder cases, one of them dating back 19 years. The State Police reinstituted the Cicero agency's gang unit, which Johnson said has racked up "very dramatic numbers of arrests."

"The troopers and Cicero police were both apprehensive when we started this partnership," Johnson observed. "But I think there's a high level of trust now that we're working side-by-side. By the same token, I don't want to paint a picture that everything's perfect."

The State Police was deployed to the agency in May after city officials in the town of 70,000 residents on the western edge of Chicago fired or suspended more than 40 officers, some of whom are accused of extortion. Others were suspended for allegedly violating the town's residency rule, which some observers said is a ruse to remove attention from those officers suspected of

more egregious wrongdoing.

The situation also led to the resignation of Police Superintendent David Niebur, who was hired by Town President Betty Loren-Maltese last December with a mandate to clean up the Police Department, and Phillip Bue, his top deputy, who resigned April 25. The resignations came one day after both were suspended for what they claim was their aggressive public exposure of municipal corruption.

On May 1, the top command took another hit when acting Supt. William Bacon, who previously headed the agency's internal affairs unit, was suspended after he acknowledged personal and business ties to a former Stone Park police officer convicted in a marijuana-growing operation run by organized crime.

Niebur, a former Minneapolis police official and Joplin, Mo., police chief, left Cicero and is reportedly living in an undisclosed location in fear of his life. Niebur and Bue claimed they had uncovered what Niebur termed "big-time crime...big-time corruption" involving police and town officials.

The two officials charged that Cicero officers made thousands of dollars a month shaking down undocumented immigrants; made false arrests in exchange for bribes, and failed to make arrests in solvable murder cases that have languished for years in cold-case files. Officials also hired officers with extensive criminal records in their pasts because they didn't bother conducting criminal background checks before they were employed, the officials claimed.

Niebur's own investigation focused on a towing firm after he received complaints from Cicero residents, many of them Hispanic, who said the city's overzealous towing operation was seizing their vehicles for no apparent reason, forcing them to pay hundreds of dollars in fines and fees to get them back.

The lid blew off in May, when Bue, a 20-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department who served as police chief in Hanover Park, Ill., and Sedalia, Mo., caught a towing company employee poring through police towing records. Niebur asked the State Police to seize the documents, in defiance of

the orders of his boss, Town President Loren-Maltese.

Since their ousters, Niebur and Bue have filed lawsuits challenging the disciplinary action, claiming it stemmed from their attempts to investigate the "suspicious" towing contract. Bue was reinstated to his former post in July, but did not return calls from Law Enforcement News for comment.

Johnson, however, said it was good to have Bue back on the team. "He's a very experienced police administrator who will be a very valuable asset in our effort," he said.

The State Police assignment in Cicero could be extended beyond December, Johnson said, but no decision will be made until an assessment of the agency is conducted. "We want to improve the operation further, but it will certainly take the vigilance of the town and police officials who succeed us to ensure that," Johnson said.

No officers had been criminally charged as of mid-August, but Johnson said that he's been advised that indictments were about to be handed down against three to five officers.

Watch the birdie (that is, if you can)

DUI offenders get unwanted publicity

A newspaper publisher in Kentucky says he's doing his part to deter drunken driving by printing photographs of those convicted of DUI.

Don White, publisher of The Anderson News, a 6,000-circulation weekly that covers news in rural Anderson County about 20 miles west of Lexington, said his years of covering alcohol-related automobile accidents and seeing firsthand the devastation they wrought prompted him to publish the photographs.

"I've been in this business about 28 years, and it just goes back to my background — going to wrecks, seeing the victims and seeing what causes the wrecks. And most of the time, it's alcohol," White told Law Enforcement News recently.

The Lawrenceburg-based newspaper announced back on New Year's Eve that it would begin publishing photos of convicted DUI offenders. "I thought that was an appropriate time," White said of the timing, adding that the photos, which first ran on a monthly basis, are now a regular feature of the newspaper.

So far this year, about 70 pictures have run in the newspaper, White said, adding that he hopes the photos might spark some embarrassment and remorse from offenders and shame from their acquaintances, and might help to end the potentially destructive behavior.

"People really dread their name in the paper when they do something wrong, so I wondered how they'd feel if their picture was in the paper. Maybe they'll be less likely to take a chance," White reasoned. "Penalties are too easy for first-time offenders. Who knows how many times they've done this before they got caught?"

White said the seriousness of the situation is reflected in statistics released in late July by state officials, which showed that highway fatalities in Kentucky are up sharply this year compared to the same period in 1997. As of July 26, 27 people were

killed in automobile accidents, compared to 19 through July 1997. Half of the fatalities occurred in accidents in which drunken driving was a factor, he said.

Lawrenceburg Police Chief Robert Edwards said he supports the newspaper's effort, although he's not sure how much of an impact it's having on those who drive after they've imbibed. "I'm sure it won't hurt anything," he told LEN, "but I don't think they go out thinking that if they get caught [driving] drunk, they'll get their picture in the paper."

Taking a "wild stab of a guess," Edwards said his 18-officer agency makes about 60 to 80 DUI arrests each year. "We do a little bit of everything" to enforce drunken driving laws, he added.

While Edwards doesn't see the photographs as serving as much of a deterrent, he says the tactic may educate others in the community about the extent of the problem.

White concedes the campaign may not have much of an impact, but the effort is eliciting a lot of positive reaction from readers as well as other newspapers interested in possibly replicating the strategy. None of those pictured have complained, White added.

One of the strongest messages of support for White's crusade came from Paula B. Freeman, the immediate past executive director of the Kentucky chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who applauded the effort.

In a letter to White shortly after he announced his campaign, Freeman wrote, "Although there will be some who will be opposed to such a 'public' announcement of community members... who decided to drive while impaired by alcohol and/or other substances, through your newspaper, MADD believes that the greatest value of your initiative will be seen as a very strong public deterrent for the most reasonable and law-abiding citizens."

Keeping their counsel: Sergeants may end rule on 48-hours of silence

Is New York City's controversial "48-hour rule," in which police are given two full days before they are required to answer police officials' questions about possible misconduct, about to be repealed?

It appears that way, after the union that represents police sergeants in labor negotiations reached a tentative agreement with the city on a new contract that would eliminate the provision, which was intended to give time for officers suspected of misconduct to gain adequate legal representation.

The board of the Sergeants' Benevolent Association voted on July 14 to send the contract that would scrap the rule to its delegates, who will then decide whether to send it to its 4,500 members for ratification.

"We're going to recommend that the contract be ratified by our membership," SBA president Joseph Toal told The New York Times.

The elimination of the rule in the SBA contract is expected to act as a wedge for scrapping it across the board when other police contracts come up for negotiation, particularly the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, which represents the vast majority of the NYPD's 40,000 sworn members.

Police watchdog groups have criticized the rule as lending credence to suspicions that police are held to a dif-

ferent standard of justice. Others say the provision contributes to the "blue wall of silence" by giving officers suspected of wrongdoing the opportunity to collude before answering questions from investigators.

The rule, which has been a part of police labor contracts since 1971, also has been criticized by police officials, who say it hampers their efforts to investigate offenses ranging from procedural infractions to brutality. Generally, the rule does not affect officers facing both criminal and departmental charges, since prosecutors usually get first crack at questioning police suspects.

The administration of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani unilaterally pulled the rule off the bargaining table after revelations about the torture and beating of a Haitian immigrant, Abner Louima, sparked a crescendo of criticism that the department was too soft on rogue cops. In the aftermath of the furor, Giuliani appointed a Task Force on Police-Community Relations, which recommended abolishing the rule.

The sergeants' and lieutenants' unions challenged the city's refusal to bargain on the issue, but the city's Board of Collective Bargaining ruled July 2 that the city did not have to negotiate the rule just because it was a feature of previous labor contracts, deciding it was a matter of internal disci-

pline, not collective bargaining. Challenges by the detectives' and captains' unions to that ruling are pending, but officials of those unions are not optimistic about their chances.

The politically powerful PBA is expected to launch a full-scale assault against any city effort to dispose of the rule when its contract negotiations roll around. The union is still smarting from having its most recent contract forced upon it by an arbitration panel after negotiations with the city deadlocked last year.

"Eliminating the 48-hour rule would just be denying cops who are the subject of internal investigations" of their rights, PBA spokesman Joseph Mancini told The New York Times.

But James F. Hanley, commissioner of the city's Office of Labor Relations, said the PBA can expect that the board would rule similarly when its current contract expires in 2000. "The PBA will continue to enjoy this provision in their contracts, but when the contract expires, I'm sure we'll be focusing on it."

Toal told The Times that the sergeants' union probably would not launch a legal challenge to the board's decision, but instead would try to negotiate with the department for a fair period that would enable accused officers to obtain legal representation, in accordance with Civil Service rules.

CALEA adds 15 agencies to accreditation roster

Fifteen law enforcement agencies earned national accreditation at the most recent meeting of the Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, bringing the total number of agencies currently bearing the credentials to 434.

Two agencies — the Staunton, Va., and the Tampa, Fla., police departments — won accreditation for the fourth time.

Among the 15 agencies that were initially accredited at the meeting, which was held July 29-Aug. 1 in

Hershey, Pa., were police departments in Chevy Chase Village, Md.; Denham Springs, La.; Greenville, N.H.; Hooksett, N.H.; Morehead City, N.C., and Verona, Wis.

Also accredited were sheriffs' departments in Durham County, N.C.; Frederick County, Md., and Monmouth County, N.J.

Three state criminal justice agencies — the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, and the Tennessee Valley Authority Police — also were accredited, as were a campus police agency, the Brown University Police & Security Services Department in Providence, R.I., and the housing authority police departments in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Reaccredited agencies included police departments in Albemarle, N.C.; Amberley Village, Ohio; Avon, Conn.; Blacksburg, Va.; Canadaigua, N.Y.; Centerville, Ohio; Dubuque, Iowa; Gainesville, Ga.; Gaithersburg, Md.; Garden Grove, Calif.; Highland Park, Texas; Johnson City, Tenn.; Miami-Dade, Fla.; North Las Vegas, Nev.;

Northfield, Ill.; Park Ridge, Ill. Rapid City, S.D.; Rockville City, Md., and Rolling Meadows, Ill.

Sheriffs' offices in Greene County, Ohio; Greenville County, S.C., and Marion County, Fla., earned reaccreditation, as did the Hamilton County, Ohio, Park District Rangers, the Delaware State Police, the Pennsylvania State Police and a Canadian police department in Camrose, Alberta.

The Southwest Central Dispatch of Illinois was recertified as part of a program in which the commission awards credentials to stand-alone agencies that provide ancillary services to law enforcement.

Just prior to the CALEA meeting, Richard F. Kitterman, the group's executive director since 1994, announced his retirement, effective Dec. 31. Kitterman, who has been with CALEA in various roles for 15 years, will be succeeded by Sylvester Daughtry, the former police chief of Greensboro, N.C., who is currently the commission's chairman.

CALEA's next meeting will be held in Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 18-21.

Dayton rebuilds SWAT team following mass resignations

Continued from Page 1

was suspended for five days for getting into a fight, being absent without leave and using threatening or offensive language during the incident.

While off duty in April 1997, Hunt filled her private swimming pool by using a city-owned fire hydrant, an incident for which she later received an oral reprimand.

But Hunt's file also contains some instances of selfless bravery and actions she took that probably saved lives. In January 1989, she used sign language to persuade a deaf 14-year-old boy to leave the home in which he had barricaded himself. Two years later, was one of two officers who performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a man who had been severely beaten. The man died, but the officers were commended for beginning life-saving efforts before medics arrived.

In August 1995, Hunt prevented a stabbing when she pulled her gun on a

Team members say female officer would have trouble handling the danger & stress.

knife-wielding man who was chasing another man. In November 1996, Hunt led detectives to the hideout of one of three men wanted for a robbery. Her help led the detectives to both of the other suspects.

Hunt, who was to begin SWAT training on July 14, did not comment on the team's action. But Chief Lowe said he would ensure that such an occurrence never happened again. "As we add members to our new SWAT team, this will not happen again," he vowed.

As they attempt to rebuild their own SWAT team, Dayton police officials said the agency would rely in the interim on the tactical team attached to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Of-

fice should a situation arise in which SWAT expertise is needed. The department's Hostage Negotiation Team, which works closely with SWAT, has begun meeting with the sheriff's unit to work out joint deployment plans, said Compston, the second-in-command, who added the two units may also train together.

The officers who resigned from their SWAT assignments remain with the Police Department since all have regular duties and were only called out to perform SWAT functions on an as-needed basis.

Compston also noted that police officials will be taking a look at SWAT team entrance criteria, saying he had discovered that some members of the team may not have met the criteria.

"It appears that we weren't consistent in how we applied the criteria. If you're going to alter the criteria for some, you have no criteria," he told The Daily News.

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Sounds of silence

Cop's Federal trial in choke-hold death puts spotlight on "blue wall"

One of policing's dirty little secrets is out: The so-called "blue wall of silence," in which cops close ranks to minimize, cover up or lie about wrongdoing to protect accused colleagues, is now a matter of Federal record, following the recent conviction on civil-rights charges of a fired New York City police officer who choked a man to death in 1994.

Francis X. Livoti, who was acquitted in state court two years ago of charges of criminally negligent homicide stemming from the death of Anthony Baez, 29, of the Bronx, was convicted June 26 by a jury in Federal District Court that took just five hours to reach a verdict. Livoti, 38, faces up to 10 years in prison when he is sentenced by Judge Shira A. Scheindlin on Sept. 24.

The death of Baez, who was confronted by Livoti after a football he was throwing landed on the officer's cruiser, prompted a fiery debate on police brutality and the role that the blue wall of silence plays in ensuring that officers are not held accountable for in-custody deaths or other actions.

The blue wall of silence was a central element of the prosecution's claims that officers who arrived at the scene of the confrontation and those who subsequently investigated Baez's death had lied and covered up to protect Livoti.

A juror said after the verdict that the panel agreed with Federal prosecutors that three officers connected to the case lied on the stand. "All three lied," a 25-year-old city resident who was not identified by the local media. "It wasn't just that they were trying to cover up for Livoti, but for themselves, because if they were witnesses to a crime, they were conspirators in the act."

The verdict, said Mary Jo White, the U.S. Attorney for the

Southern District of New York, "shows that police officers who commit acts of brutality can be prosecuted and convicted, even, as the Government stated in its summation, when other officers fabricate testimony or cover up the truth."

Livoti was booted from the Police Department last year after an in-house trial found him guilty of using a banned choke-hold restraint on Baez.

Livoti, who had an extensive record of brutality complaints, was kept on patrol despite recommendations by his commander that he be transferred to a desk job or to a less stressful precinct. Prosecutors suggested Livoti's status and connections as a delegate for the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the powerful city police union, prevented the commander's recommendation from being carried out.

White hinted that investigations of three officers suspected of lying in the case are being pursued, perhaps with an eye toward Federal perjury charges. White would say only that the investigation "of the entire matter, including a review of all trial testimony, is continuing."

The officers from the 45th Precinct — Sgt. William Monahan, who was Livoti's supervisor on the night of Baez's death, and officers Anthony Farnan, and Mario Erotokritou — were stripped of their guns and badges and placed on modified duty, prompting speculation that they'll soon have perjury charges filed against them, The New York Daily News reported. Their claims that Baez was still alive after Livoti released him from the choke-hold were contradicted by another officer at the scene on Dec. 22, 1994.

Prosecutors detailed meetings held between Livoti and officers on the scene in the hours and days following the incident,

including meetings in the precinct house parking lot, and with their lawyers at PBA headquarters.

The jury was not allowed to hear testimony from Officer Daisy Boria, the only officer on the scene who said Baez did not rise and walk a few steps after Livoti released him from the hold, in which she claimed that officers concocted a cover story blaming a fictitious black man for choking Baez to death before running off into the night. Boria did provide testimony about post-incident meetings of officers who discussed the case outside the precinct house.

Most of the meetings were held during the period under the department's "48-hour rule," which gives officers involved in shootings or in-custody deaths a two-day grace period from having to face internal investigators. Prosecutors charged that the rule, which the city is attempting to have removed from future police labor contracts, provided the delay needed to get their stories straight. [See related story, Page 6.]

Monahan did not give a full account of the incident to his own superiors or the Bronx District Attorney's Office. He made no statement for months, and then, only after meeting with Livoti. "He's got to make up a story," said assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew S. Dember during his summation to the jury. "But before he ever tells anybody the story, he meets with the defendant in the PBA offices and they discuss the case."

Boria is seeking to quit the NYPD and has filed for a tax-free disability pension. She reportedly became the target of threats following her testimony in Livoti's 1996 state homicide trial. The judge presiding over the bench trial acquitted Livoti, although he complained of a "nest of perjury" in conflicting testimony given by Boria and the three other officers.

The high cost of public safety:

Omaha grapples with supervisors' OT pay

Holiday overtime pay for police captains and lieutenants in Omaha, Neb., cost taxpayers there more than \$100,000 in 1997, according to a review conducted recently by The World-Herald newspaper. But Mayor Hal Daub defended the costs, saying the improved public safety that results is worth the expense.

The newspaper's review of overtime policies in Omaha and other law enforcement agencies in the area found that the Omaha Police Department paid nearly \$103,193 in holiday overtime to captains and lieutenants in 1997.

Holiday pay, the newspaper reported, contributed to a 46-percent increase in all extra pay for officers from 1991 to 1997. Officers in the force of 700 sworn personnel also receive extra pay for working overtime or appearing in court during their off-duty hours.

In contrast, the newspaper reported, other area law enforcement agencies have barred higher-ranking supervisors from working extra time on holidays, in an attempt to cap overtime costs.

Bellevue Police Chief Hines Smith doesn't deploy his eight captains and lieutenants for holiday duty, saving his 58-officer agency about \$30,000 a year. Costs are down, from \$175,000 for the 1995-96 fiscal year to \$150,000 in FY 1996-97, Smith says, attributing the decline to steady growth in the agency's authorized strength and a new shift policy in which officers work overlapping, 12-hour tours. During the final two hours of each shift, officers do not answer 911 calls, but complete reports and other administrative tasks.

Similar policies are in effect at the Nebraska State Patrol and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, The World-Herald reported.

But Daub said the extra duty for the Omaha PD's middle managers results in more arrests and tickets that increase city revenues and lower crime, making the expense worth it.

"We've made more arrests and issued more warrants and more tickets in recent years," he told the newspaper. "That makes overtime necessary. It's a function of improved public safety. People are trying to make a problem where there isn't one."

The World-Herald cited overtime as a key factor in recent Police Department budget overruns. A labor contract negotiated between Daub and the police union and approved by the City Council in 1995 gave captains the right to work holidays. The provision replaced prohibitions on such overtime that were in effect for several years in an effort to curb costs.

Under the contract, police officers are paid 2½ times their regular rate for working holidays. And Daub offered

officers new extra pay incentives through the 1995 contract, particularly those with special skills and jobs.

"When it's contractual, our hands are tied," said City Council President Frank Brown, who voted in favor of a new police contract in January.

The city has explored various ways to rein in overtime costs. In 1995, a provision was added to the labor contract that gave police managers flexibility in allowing officers to take compensatory time off instead of being paid overtime, which is 1½ times their regular pay. Previously, the practice was allowed by sergeants and lieutenants, but it was a violation of the police union contract. That sparked a \$16-million lawsuit against the city, which it settled for \$6 million in 1996.

The city also has hired city prosecutors to monitor court cases so that officers are called in only when they are needed. Officials have also discussed setting up a night court, as well as charging fees to promoters who want officers to provide security at events. Overtime management also is a weekly topic among the department's top commanders.

Some cities have asserted that high-ranking police supervisors such as captains and lieutenants — like professional or executive salaried employees — should be exempted from the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, a 1938 workplace law that the Supreme Court applied to public employees in a ruling in 1985. The law requires employers to pay overtime rates for every hour

worked over a 40-hour work week.

Omaha, too, has considered challenging the Federal law, said Tom Marfisi, the city's labor relations director. "We sort of felt we could exempt captains and lieutenants, but it wouldn't do us any good anyway because it's still in the contract."

Adding officers to reel in overtime costs is not always the solution, said Mayor Daub, who added that it costs about \$60,000 a year — not including overtime — to cover an officer's salary and benefits. Overstaffing can erode the agency's professionalism, he contended, adding that a wiser policy is to reward officers who exhibit initiative and outstanding service. "That becomes the incentive for qualified officers to improve their abilities," he opined.

To rebuild public trust, DC chief takes aim at preventing, tracking officer misconduct

Polygraph tests for recruits and background checks of supervisors are a couple of the procedures being pressed into service by Washington, D.C., Police Chief Charles Ramsey to guard against police misconduct.

Ramsey, who has said regaining public trust in the beleaguered agency is one of his primary concerns, made the announcement on June 30 while appearing before a D.C. Council special committee conducting hearings on police oversight.

Statistics gathered by the committee indicated that one-third of the district's police officers were accused of misconduct last year, while in the first six months of 1998, nearly 500 of the department's 3,600 officers were accused of wrongdoing.

The department's system for keeping track of misconduct allegations is so flawed that some "get lost," ac-

knowledgeed Ramsey, a former Chicago police official who was appointed to lead the Washington agency earlier this year. "We have no way of tracking all of these cases. Many of them get lost," he said.

The implementation of a uniform reporting system, he added, would add much-needed improvements to the system.

"It appears you don't have that here," observed Michael Hoke, an assistant deputy superintendent for the Chicago Police Department, who testified before the committee. "Sooner or later that can backfire."

Hoke said building a centralized complaint tracking system would be worth the investment, with the payoff being better police-community relations. The effort "might cost a lot of money up front, but in the long run it will bring a lot more trust," he said.

Ramsey said he had ordered that any officer who observes a colleague engaging in misconduct or receives a complaint must notify a supervisor and submit a written report that documents what they know. The policy, he said, was "effective immediately."

Under the policy, supervisors must then turn the officer's report over to the agency's Office of Professional Responsibility, along with a report written themselves which they must submit within an hour of receiving the complaint. The OPR would then be expected to assign the case for investigation.

Noting that young rookie cops are most at risk for engaging in misconduct, Ramsey said he plans to ensure the integrity of every potential recruit by ordering them to undergo polygraph examinations. Integrity checks won't be limited to potential new hires; the

agency also will conduct complete background checks of all commanders above the rank of captain, he added.

Other avenues being explored include the implementation of an early-warning system that would set off red flags about officers who are stressed out or who appear to be exhibiting uncharacteristic behavior, Ramsey added.

Coming up in LEN:

The FBI is gearing up to face the dreaded "Y2K" computer problem. Will the the nation's crime data bases be ready in time?

Dolnick:

Painful truth about the DARE program

By Jed M. Dolnick

While attending a law enforcement conference in 1996, I sat in at a breakout session devoted to one police department's anti-gang program. A police officer explained that his agency created the program, funded with grant money, in response to the sudden appearance of gang graffiti in the city. Most of his presentation consisted of slides showing smiling kids wearing special T-shirts and engaging in a variety of fun activities.

Near the end, the officer pointed to a slide showing a particularly gleeful group of kids and stated, "If that doesn't show that the program is working, I don't know what does." I took a deep breath and politely asked the officer if his department had been able to quantify any impact on gang activity, such as a reduction in the graffiti that got their attention in the first place. Despite my effort to speak in a neutral tone, the officer immediately became defensive. It was impossible, he claimed, to prove that gang activity had been reduced, but "even if we keep one kid out of a gang, we've been successful."

I briefly considered asking the officer why police officers were needed to operate what was, essentially, a summer playground program, but decided against it. I also didn't ask why his agency had lost its ability to quantify the problem as soon as the grant was approved. Even polite questioning of devotees of feel-good crime-prevention programs can be a hazardous pursuit. In the space of a few minutes, however, I had heard two of the three main justifications used by supporters of such programs: "smiling kids denote success," and "any degree of success is worthwhile." The third, not mentioned at this particular meeting, is "any program is better than doing nothing."

My recollection of this incident was spurred by an article in the April 15 edition of LEN that bore the headline, "Truth, DARE and Conse-

quences." DARE, the mother of all feel-good crime-prevention programs, has failed yet another test of its effectiveness. This time it was a six-year longitudinal study conducted by researchers at the University of Illinois-Chicago. It tracked the experiences of 1,100 students at 36 urban, suburban and rural schools. The study found that

that, "whether the DARE program, or any other similar program, is best is probably impossible to quantify and might actually be irrelevant. What is important is whether it fulfills its role as an integral part of the three-pronged approach [family, community, school] to helping kids build healthy lifestyles."

Our ability to do something about drug abuse is being killed by chiefs and sheriffs who measure DARE's success by the number of T-shirts they see at "graduation ceremonies."

DARE had little effect on preventing drug abuse as students got older. Incredibly, DARE may have even contributed to the likelihood of drug and alcohol use. The UIC report is but the latest in a series of studies that cast doubt on DARE's long-term effectiveness.

DARE America, which administers the program, designs the curriculum and collects handsomely for its licensed products, has previously dismissed such studies as being scientifically flawed. This began to wear a little thin as more negative studies came out, and DARE America now has seemingly adopted a new defense: "Your study is old and we've changed the program." Consequently, when the UIC study was released, DARE America replied that the curriculum had been changed in 1994. We can expect that any future, long-range study would meet with the same defense. Thus, DARE remains that singular program that eludes any scientific study, especially those that track its long-term impacts.

DARE supporters prefer to focus on immediate gratification. In the June 1998 edition of Wisconsin School News, Perry Rettig, an assistant professor of educational administration and professional leadership at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, came to the remarkable conclusion

Professor Rettig then referred to a survey of fifth through seventh graders, their parents and teachers in Sheboygan, Wis. All agreed that DARE had helped the children to resist drugs. The questionable value of a short-term, "snapshot" survey didn't prevent Professor Rettig from concluding that "the DARE program does seem to be making a difference."

While working as a crime-prevention officer, I viewed with suspicion the "flavor of the month" programs that stressed headlines over results. I declined to embrace every program that came along, each accompanied by an array of bumper stickers, signs, buttons and other trinkets. I was, in turn, viewed with suspicion by other crime-prevention officers who didn't understand my position. They assumed that because the programs looked good, they *had* to work. Similarly, only a few law enforcement executives have been inclined to demand evidence that DARE works. The rest are content to revel in the publicity, the hype, the impression that something is being done.

The fact is that smiling kids *do not* denote success. A program that drains millions of dollars of funding and diverts personnel into schools is *not* worthwhile if it doesn't work. A program that displaces other, more effective programs is *harmful*.

Our ability to do something about drug abuse is being killed by chiefs and sheriffs who measure DARE's success by the number of T-shirts they see at DARE "graduation ceremonies."

We all wanted DARE to work. Perhaps there was a problem with the concept. Maybe it's the fault of the curriculum. It could be that two of the prongs mentioned by Professor Rettig — family and community — aren't fulfilling their missions. Whatever the reason, DARE isn't working. At this writing, some school boards have reacted to the studies by eliminating or cutting back on DARE. Even a few courageous police chiefs are starting to question DARE's value. We can only hope that more educators and law enforcement executives will begin to accept the painful reality of DARE's failures.

Letters

No vacation in Seattle

To the editor:

Ouch! I am a subscriber and regular reader of LEN, as I believe it provides a balanced, professional and relevant perspective on our profession. I was, therefore, dismayed to read that in LEN (May 31, 1998), my own agency, the Seattle Police Department, "community policing gets a reluctant vacation."

Community policing has not taken a vacation. It hasn't even taken a day off. Far from it. It is true that officers from the specialized Community Police Teams (CPT) were reassigned to assist patrol officers in handling 911 calls during the busy summer months when our staffing shortages are felt the most. However, the heart of the Seattle Police Department's community policing effort is the day-to-day work of patrol officers who are also trained in problem-solving methods and find opportunities to use them regularly.

Everyday in the field, patrol officers identify crime and disorder problems and work very hard to reduce or solve them. They attend community meetings in their districts where they share information and work hand-in-hand with neighborhood residents to address these problems. They do this while handling a steady stream of 911 calls. Responding to emergency calls will always be our No. 1 priority, but we're training our officers to think of every incident as a potential problem. It may need immediate triage, but there is also a recognition that the officer may come back to the same location time and time again. When this happens, that patrol officer has the best information and may already be thinking of the underlying cause of the problem as well as possible solutions. They are able to do this because they, along with the neighborhood residents, are the experts on the problem — not the officers from specialized units who wait for referrals from the community and patrol when extra resources are needed.

The SPD approach is a problem-oriented approach to community policing, which means that every employee in the organization, from the person who answers a telephone to the Chief of Police, is trained and expected to apply problem-solving principles to address crime and disorder.

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Note to Readers:

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Readers are invited to voice their opinions on topical issues, in the form of letters or full-length commentaries. Please send all materials to the editor.



Investing in kids pays handsome dividend

The first session of a Junior Police Academy ever sponsored by the Vilonia, Ark., Police Department this summer was so well attended and well received that Police Chief Billy Baker says he'll have to schedule several sessions next year to meet the demand.

Baker said he plans to make the program a permanent feature of the department's continuing efforts to improve relations with the community and deter drug and alcohol abuse by youths.

It's the first such program ever put on by an Arkansas police department, Baker claimed, and local interest in the effort was keen. Next summer, the Chief said, "We'll probably have to have four to six classes...to accommodate everybody, since more students have indicated interest."

The kick-off session, which Baker said cost about \$12,000, was funded in part by the state Department of Health, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention. "Our kids are definitely worth it because they're our future," Baker told Law Enforcement News.

The first group of participants graduated Aug. 1, shortly after completing the two-week course. Two classes with a total of 36 youths, who ranged in age from 9 to 17, attended the academy's daily eight-hour sessions, which were held in two sections at Vilonia High School.

"I only wish it was longer," said Jordan Hutson, 12, who will be a seventh-grader at Vilonia Middle School

this fall. "I was very lucky to be able to participate in it, especially since it's the first time it's been done in Arkansas. I hope other kids are able to experience this."

Hutson, who said she is interested in a law enforcement career, said participants were enthralled by the speakers and the hands-on demonstrations that allowed them to see how a police helicopter works and to see what it's like to be drunk or high by donning virtual reality goggles that simulate the experience.

Hutson said the experience brought her closer to police officers. "Too many children are taught to be afraid of police officers," she observed. "I can talk to them about anything and everything... If you need a friend, they're always there."

Hutson's mother, Kelly, applauded Chief Baker's effort, saying the participants "learned more about crime and drugs than I ever did as a kid, but times have changed, and kids need to know about this."

The effort drew praise from both local and state officials, including Gov. Mike Huckabee, who said programs like the Junior Police Academy can act to "replace the nightmare of crime with a bright new day of hope." In a proclamation made to commemorate the graduation, Mayor Lloyd Bise praised the academy for its program "to strengthen the relationship between the department and young people."

During the classes, which ran from July 20-31, students were lectured on drug and alcohol abuse and were given the opportunity to get a first-hand look at the work of law enforcement officers. Members of the Vilonia Police Department, as well as officers from the Arkansas State Police and those from Federal agencies such as the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Marshals Service, volunteered their time to give presentations and lectures to the students.

Baker, who took command of the

seven-officer department in January, said he decided to start the academy "to give our youth something to do other than this summer other than being bored. My main reason was to show them that there's more to life than drugs and alcohol, and how to be productive in the community. We also touched on how to overcome peer pressure to avoid drugs and alcohol."

Slots in the academy were provided on a first-come, first-served basis; all prospective "recruits" needed to do was submit a complete application form.

COPS-funded officers in Montana may be in for a kick in the Butte

Three to five officers from the Butte-Silver Bow Police Department in Montana who were hired with Federal grants may be laid off later this year because of a "misunderstanding" about the second round of funding from the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

The agency received \$600,000 in 1994 to hire six new officers, and expected to use money from a second grant to fund those positions for three more years. Under the program, agencies who accepted grants are expected to assume the costs of keeping officers on the force once the grants' three-year terms expire. Succeeding grants are to be used only to hire new officers. The

program also requires all officers hired with grants to be assigned to duties that enhance community policing.

Sheriff John McPherson said he learned of the requirements during a Federal audit of Butte's community policing program that was conducted in late May. "It was my understanding that this grant was a continuation, so we could have those officers through the year 2000," he told The Montana Standard.

Because of budget shortfalls, the department cannot afford to absorb the costs of retaining the officers, so the Sheriff expects they'll be laid off. The situation also prevented the agency was accepting the second grant, he said.

"We allowed everyone who turned in an application to come in," Baker said.

Interest in the program was far higher than what was initially expected, and Baker speculated that the school yard massacre in Jonesboro last May was a catalyst. The program also prompted queries from other law enforcement agencies near the town of 2,500 residents, which is located about 30 miles north of Little Rock, including the Conway, Greenbrier and Mayflower police departments, Baker added.

The original grant expires on Sept. 30, but McPherson said he hopes to win an extension that will allow him to retain the officers through December.

The Sheriff also is looking to use COPS-funded officers to fill positions that are expected to open soon. Laid-off officers would be placed on a recall list, he said, and would get the first crack at new vacancies, he said.

"I'm glad we found it in this audit before we had already spent the money, and had to pay it back," the Sheriff said.

McPherson did not return calls from Law Enforcement News for comment on the matter. Kevin Avery, a COPS office spokesman, said he was not familiar enough with the issue to comment.

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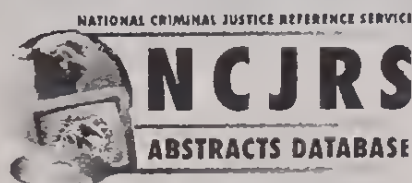
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On-line victim notification due for N.C.

Crime victims in North Carolina will soon be able to track the whereabouts of their assailants as they move through the criminal justice system, thanks to a statewide computer system that will also automatically alert them by telephone when offenders are released or escape from custody.

The Statewide Automated Victim Assistant Notification system, as developed by The VINE Company, a Louisville, Ky.-based firm that specializes in victim-notification software. The company developed the system following the murder of Mary Byron, a Louisville woman who was killed on her 21st birthday in 1994 by a man who had been released from prison after serving time for raping her.

The systems' capabilities vary depending on the needs of the jurisdiction — and are ever-expanding, a VINE spokeswoman said — but generally they allow victims to call a toll-free number and enter an offender's identification number to get the status of the case. Victims are also issued identification numbers so that the system can automatically call anyone who requests notification about an impending release.

In North Carolina, the SAVAN sys-

tem will update the status of each offender in the state every 10 minutes. On high-priority calls, the system will redial the victim's number every 30 minutes for 24 hours or until someone answers and enters the personal ID number that lets the system know the message has been received.

For low-priority calls, the system will dial the victim's number about every two hours for 48 hours. It will also leave messages on answering machines.

North Carolina joins a growing number of jurisdictions that have implemented victim-notification systems developed by The VINE Company, officials said. "It's part of the movement toward providing crime victims access to information about their cases," said Mary Lowry, an official of the Governor's Crime Commission who is overseeing the project.

Similar systems have been on line in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Wilson County; those systems will be "rolled over" into SAVAN, said Lowry. SAVAN is expected to be linked to all of North Carolina's county jails by September 1999, as well as the state Division of Adult Probation and Parole and the Parole Commission by this December. Five jails were slated to be hooked

up to SAVAN this month, she added.

"This is a great source of information for victims of violent crime," Lowry told Law Enforcement News. "If they register, it will notify them when an offender is released from jail. That way, they can take further steps to protect themselves.... It won't provide them with every single thing they might want to know, but it will give them access to information they should have."

The program was expected to be on line on a pilot basis in several North Carolina counties by mid-August. Four prosecutorial districts are involved in a pilot project to determine what infor-

mation about court proceedings can be relayed to victims via SAVAN, Lowry said.

The state also is developing training for the public about SAVAN as well as a series of 10 regional training sessions for law enforcement officials, who will receive videotapes they can use to train their own employees.

Juliette Grace, a spokeswoman for The VINE Company, said the system is in place in one form or another in well over 500 jurisdictions in 32 states. Several other states are considering setting up statewide victim-notification systems developed by VINE.

Grace said it was hard to gauge the system's effectiveness because of the anonymous nature of the program. "But we do hear from victim-service providers who say that the service has been well-received," she said.

The capabilities of the system, the first of which was installed in Jefferson County, Ky., in December 1994, will be expanded to include arrest notification, court date notification and case disposition, Grace said, which she said is part of the company's effort to provide information to victims that "encompasses the entire criminal justice process from start to finish."

Ohio crime-data upgrade plays "beat the clock" after contractor bails out

Continued from Page 1
members," she explained in a letter to NORIS director Pat Wright.

Five months later, Lind, whom sources told The Blade lived lavishly at the expense of her company, filed for bankruptcy.

Marti Felker, who was police chief of Toledo from 1987 to 1994 and who has served as executive director of the

criminal justice council since 1995, said the new firm hired for the project, Crawford Consulting Inc., of North Canton, Ohio, has had to virtually start it over again from the ground up.

The firm is currently in the engineering phase of the project, Felker told Law Enforcement News last month. "They're on target and meeting their completion dates, so we're optimistic it will get finished this time."

The project, which will cost \$4.5 million, is expected to be in place "before 2000," Felker added.

Officials hope the date is on target so the system can be retooled to avoid any glitches that could occur because

of the so-called "Y2K problem," in which software can't read dates past 1999. "We don't know how big a problem that's going to be," said Wright, NORIS's director.

What is certain is that the new firm was put under a microscope of scrutiny before it was hired. Crawford Consulting's credentials were thoroughly checked out, said Wright, and it is being paid in phases as parts of the project are completed.

"I question everything now," said Wright, who had originally recommended Lind for the job. "Believe me, this is an experience you don't want to go through. It was hell."

Headlines are not enough

Affirmative-action programs looking a little black & blue
The jury is still out on community policing
It's a mother
Time to rethink academy & field training
Maternity-leave
Police force is too much

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(91598)

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Letters

No vacation for Seattle community policing

Continued from Page 8

Not only is the reassignment of CPT officers not a setback, it highlights the effectiveness and quality of patrol officers in Seattle who do the important work of our agency every day. CPT officers perform a valuable service in being freed from the tyranny of 911 to address chronic problems, but problems are still addressed daily by patrol officers who don't have the luxury every shift of time away from 911. We also encourage our supervisors to assist them in finding uncommitted time, when priority calls are not holding, to address longer-term problems.

The fact that specialized CPT officers were asked to share the burden of the radio for the summer also highlights a strategic plan, not a knee-jerk reaction, to include every person in our organization in our community policing commitment, not just officers from specialized units. We are very clear that the average interaction that a community member has is not with an officer from a specialized unit, but with the patrol officer delivering service 24 hours a day on the street. It makes no sense to us to build our community policing house as a house of cards — i.e., reliance on specialized officers who may be redeployed to handle critical needs in the community when a crisis occurs. Patrol officers are always there to "serve and protect," and service includes problem-solving.

Your article, however innocently, does a great disservice to every patrol

officer in this country (and Seattle) who, without being titled, works hard to reduce or solve the crime and disorder problems in his or her geographic area of responsibility. They know that true community policing is something in which all employees in our departments must be engaged. Problem-solving and partnerships — those are the key elements of community policing, and they are not the sole purview of a few officers in our profession. And, when you only see a "community policing officer" doing problem-solving and forming partnerships, that organization is creating a very short life for their community policing effort. As soon as the first crisis comes along, community policing will vanish into the abyss with a sigh of relief that personnel won't have to address crime and disorder in a systematic way, and "real police work," the incident-driven (reactive) style, will raise its ugly head once again.

I implore you to revisit this topic with an emphasis on the problem-solving efforts of regular, hard-working generalist patrol officers. By design, they are the essence of community policing in Seattle, and in many other organizations. They will keep our vision of community policing alive long after the Federal funding for specialist community policing officers is gone.

NANCY McPHERSON

Director

Community Policing Bureau
Seattle (Wash.) Police Department

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

16-18. Effective Media Practices for the Law Enforcement Executive. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Alexandria, Va.

16-18. Implementing Community-Oriented Policing. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Hudson, N.H.

17. Handcuffing Instructor & Instructor Re-Cert. Presented by R.E.B. Training International Inc. East Windsor, Conn. \$220.

17-18. Veteran Officer Tactical Review. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Henderson, Nev.

17-18. Tracing Illegal Proceeds. Presented by the Investigation Training Institute. Secaucus, N.J. \$395.

18. Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol Training (Instructor Course). Presented by R.E.B. Training International Inc. East Windsor, Conn. \$220.

18. Conducting Effective Employment Interviews for Entry-Level Positions. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Greer, S.C.

21. Grant Writing for Law Enforcement Agencies. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Peters, Mo.

21-22. Civil Remedies for Nuisance Abatement. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Albuquerque, N.M.

21-22. Leadership & Quality Policing. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Keene, N.H.

21-23. Computerized Accident Reconstruction 1 — Introduction to EDCRASH. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$500.

21-23. Managing Contemporary Policing Strategies. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Toledo, Ohio.

21-25. Police Executive Development. Presented by the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute. Dallas. \$495.

21-25. SWAT 2: Advanced Tactical & Hostage Rescue Operations. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chesterfield, Va.

21-25. Basic Financial Crime Investigation. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$500.

22-25. National Community Policing Conference. Presented by the Portland Police Bureau. Portland, Ore. \$300.

23-25. Advanced Tactical Management for Commanders & Supervisors. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Thornton, Colo.

23-25. Workshop on Problem Solving: The Seven A's. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Concord, Mass.

24-25. Investigative Techniques. Presented by Hutchinson Law Enforcement Training. Oakland, Calif. \$190.

24-25. Computerized Accident Reconstruction 2 — Introduction to EDCAD. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$400.

24-25. Supervisory Survival for Women. Presented by Public Safety Training Inc. West Palm Beach, Fla.

27-Oct. 2. Annual Tactical Training Course & Conference. Presented by the National Tactical Officers Association. Dayton, Ohio. \$475.

28-29. Values-Centered Leadership: A Workshop on Ethics, Values & Integrity.

Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Virginia Beach, Va.

28-30. Fraud Investigation Methods. Presented by the Investigation Training Institute. Dallas. \$595.

28-30. Determining Patrol Staffing, Deployment & Scheduling. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Seattle.

28-30. Criminal Investigative Techniques 2. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Bethlehem, Pa.

28-Oct. 1. Advanced Hostage Negotiations. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$500.

28-Oct. 2. Advanced Financial Crime Investigation. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$500.

28-Oct. 2. Microcomputer-Assisted Accident Reconstruction. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$800.

28-Oct. 2. Traffic Radar/Lidar Instructor. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$550.

28-Oct. 2. Less Lethal Weapons Instructor Certification Course. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Freehold, N.J.

28-Oct. 9. Accident Investigation 2. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$900.

28-Dec. 4. School of Police Staff & Command. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$2,300.

29-Oct. 1. Street Survival 98. Presented by Calibre Press. Portland, Ore. \$199

Communications/Dispatch Centers. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Seattle.

4-9. Annual Training Conference. Presented by the International Association of Law Enforcement Planners. Everett, Wash. \$250.

5-6. Aggressive Patrol Tactics for Drug Enforcement. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$250.

5-7. Internal Affairs: Legal & Operational Issues. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Peters, Mo.

5-7. Multi-Agency Incident Management for Law Enforcement & Fire Service Commanders & Supervisors. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Sharonville, Ohio.

5-7. Patrol Response to Tactical Confrontations. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. La Vista, Neb.

5-7. Computerized Accident Reconstruction 3 — Introduction to EDSMAC. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$550.

5-9. Arson Investigation. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$500.

5-9. Basic Hostage Negotiations. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$575.

5-9. Successful Grantsmanship. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$550.

5-9. Executive & Dignitary Protection. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Bellingham, Wash.

5-30. School of Police Supervision. Presented by the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute. Dallas. \$795.

7-8. Street Gangs & Drugs. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$250.

tute. Evanston, Ill. \$250.

7-9. Cultural Awareness: Train the Trainer. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Buffalo Grove, Ill.

7-9. First Line Supervision. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Denver.

8-9. Police Leadership: Managing the Future. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Herndon, Va.

8-9. Less Lethal Force Options: Concepts & Considerations in the De-Escalation Philosophy. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. West Manchester, Pa.

11-14. National Conference on Preventing Crime. Presented by the National Crime Prevention Council. Washington, D.C. \$225.

12-16. Crime Scene Technology. Presented by Sirchie Fingerprint Laboratories. Youngsville, N.C. \$395.

12-16. Police Budgeting & Fiscal Management. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$500.

12-16. Vehicle Dynamics. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$650.

13-14. Narcotic & Drug Investigations. Presented by Hutchinson Law Enforcement Training. Boston. \$190.

13-15. Street Survival 98. Presented by Calibre Press. Toledo, Ohio. \$199.

13-16. Managing the Field Training Process. Presented by the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Evanston, Ill. \$500.

You've got a lot to learn... when you take advantage of the listings in LEN's "Upcoming Events" section.

For further information:

Addresses & phone/fax numbers for organizations listed in calendar of events.

Association for Criminal Justice Research (California), Attn.: Dale Sechrest, (909) 880-5566 Fax: (909) 880-7025 E-mail: dksechrest@aol.com

Calibre Press, 666 Dundee Rd., Suite 1607, Northbrook, IL 60062-2727. (800) 323-0037. Fax: (708) 498-6869 E-mail: Seminar@CalibrePress.com.

CQC Service Group, Kingsbury Lane, Billerica, MA 01862 (617) 667-5591

Hutchinson Law Enforcement Training, LLC, P.O. Box 822, Granby, CT 06035. (860) 653-0788 E-mail: dhutch@snet.net. Web: <http://www.patriotweb.com/hlet>.

Institute of Police Technology & Management, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Rd. So., Jacksonville, FL 32216. (904) 646-2722.

International Association of Chiefs of Police, P.O. Box 90976, Washington, DC 20090-0976. 1-800-THE IACP Fax: (703) 836-4543. E-mail: IAPSC@IAPSC.org Web: www.iapsc.org

International Association of Law Enforcement Planners, c/o Deputy Troy Jess, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, (425) 388-3829 Fax: (425) 388-3885 Web: <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ialep>.

Investigation Training Institute, P.O. Box 669, Shelburne, VT 05482 (802) 985-9123

Millersville University, Department of Continuing Education, Attn: Jacob Haber, (302) 654-9091

National Crime Prevention Council, 1700 K St. N.W., Washington, DC 20006-3817 (202) 466-6272 Fax: (202) 296-1356

National Tactical Officers Association, P.O. Box 529, Doylestown, PA 18901. (800) 279-9127 Fax: (215) 230-7552. E-mail: ntoapa@aol.com.

New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management, P.O. Box 57350, Babson Park, MA 02157-0350. (617) 237-4724 Web: <http://www.tiac.net/users/gburke/neilem.html>.

Northwestern University Traffic Institute, 555 Clark St., P.O. Box 1409, Evanston, IL 60204. (800) 323-4011 Web: www.nwu.edu/traffic/

Office of International Criminal Justice, University of Illinois-Chicago. (312) 996-9595

Portland Police Bureau, Attn: Jane Braaten, Conference Director, (503) 823-0292 Fax: (503) 823-0289

Public Safety Training Inc., P.O. Box 106, Oak Harbor, OH 43449 (419) 732-2520. Fax: (419) 732-3580. E-mail: 74644.2204@compuserve.com.

R.E.B. Training International Inc., P.O. Box 845, Stoddard, NH 03464 (603) 446-9393 Fax: (603) 446-9394

Sirchie Fingerprint Laboratories, 100 Hunter Pl., Youngsville, NC 27596. (919) 554-2244 Fax: (919) 556-2266

Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute, P.O. Box 830707, Richardson, TX 75083-0707 (972) 664-3471 Fax: (972) 699-7172. Web: <http://web2.aimail.net/sli/sli.html>

West Springfield Police Department, Attn: Sgt. Sypek, (413) 263-3210

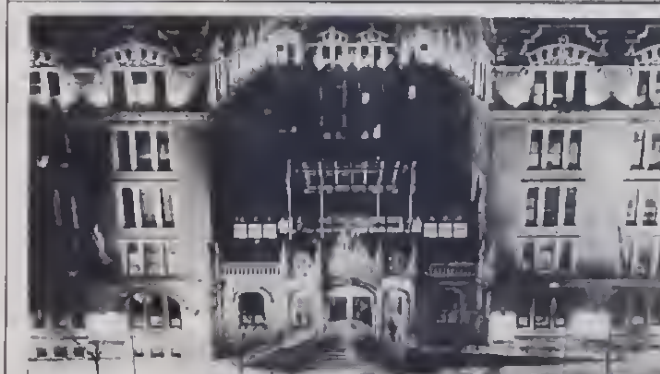
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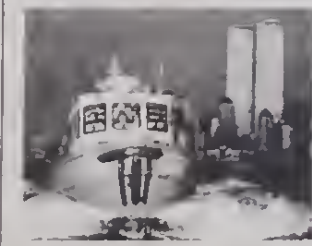


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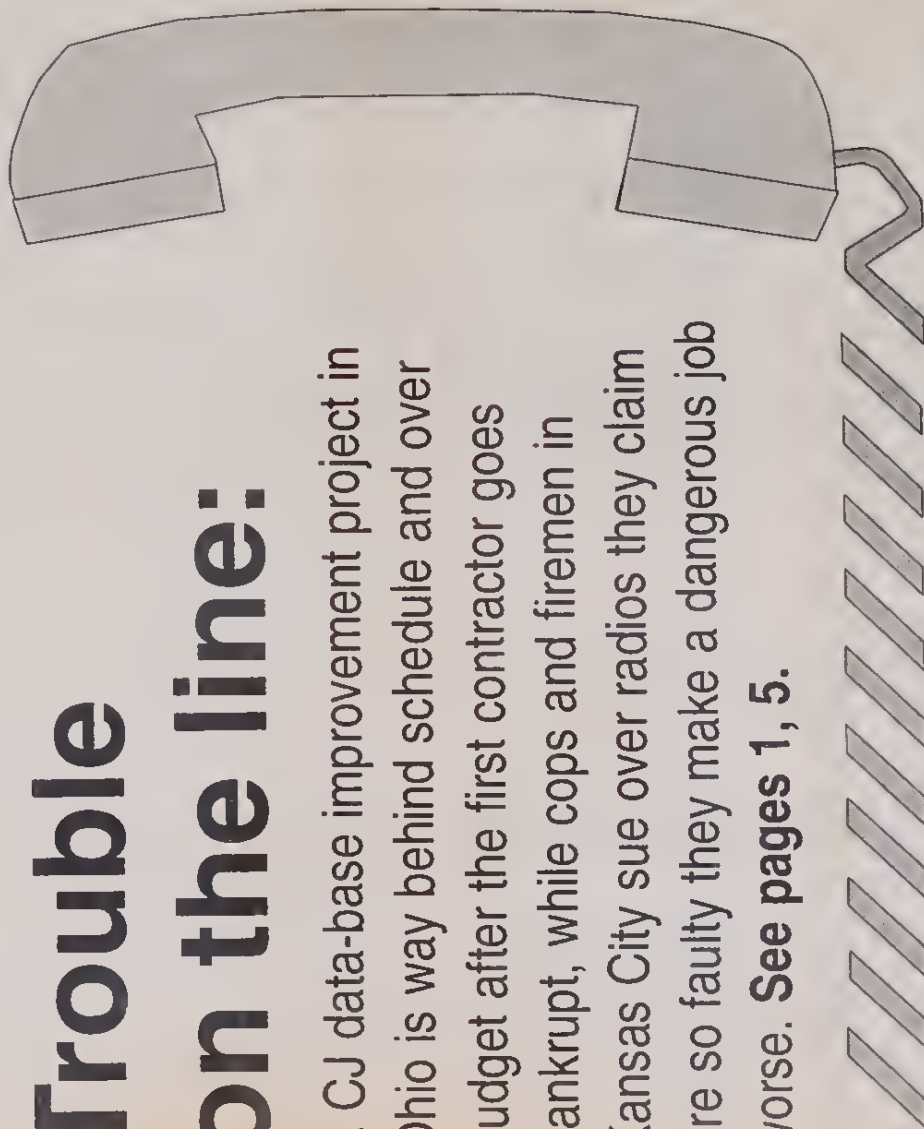
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Trouble on the line:

A CJ data-base improvement project in Ohio is way behind schedule and over budget after the first contractor goes bankrupt, while cops and firemen in Kansas City sue over radios they claim are so faulty they make a dangerous job worse. **See pages 1, 5.**



Wishful thinking:

We all wanted the DARE program to work, but the “painful reality” is that DARE eludes scientific, long-term study by focusing on smiling kids and immediate gratification. Forum, **Page 8.**

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What They Are Saying:

“A bad parody of opera could be pretty hard to listen to after you’ve had a few drinks.”

— Insp. Sharan Lubinski of the Minneapolis Police Department, an opera lover who is considering piping in opera music to clear streets of revelers after the downtown bars and nightclubs have closed. (People & Places, Page 4.)